



NOV-DEC
2021
NEWSLETTER



THE LINK

Our Advent Theme This Year Is About Home

When something hits close to home, it affects us deeply. During the Advent and Christmas season, we journey through scriptures and rituals that are tender, heavy with emotion, and vulnerable. We carry the memories and truths of this season close to our hearts.

Close to Home acknowledges the “already but not yet” tension of our faith: Emmanuel is with us, and yet, God’s promised day - our everlasting home - is not fully realized. It names our deep longing for God to come close to us.

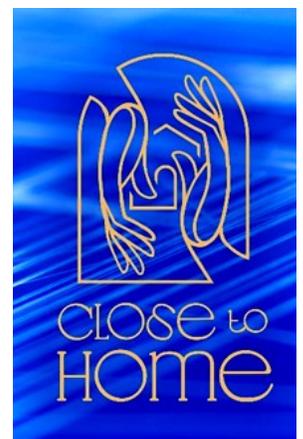
The Advent and Christmas scriptures are rich with home metaphors and imagery. John the Baptist prophesies about the One who is to come, but reminds us that we are still wandering far from God’s promised day; his message hits close to home, especially for those experiencing inequity and oppression. After receiving the angel’s news, Mary retreats to Elizabeth’s home, seeking refuge and safety. Christ is born in the midst of a journey home, in a crowded dwelling space amidst livestock and shepherds alike. The Magi travel far from home to pay homage to Christ, and, having been warned in a dream, they avoid Herod by traveling home another way.

In these scriptures, home is both physical and metaphorical, something we seek and something we are called to build. Ultimately, God is our home and resting place. God draws near and makes a home on earth - sacred ground is all around us.

Close to Home also names the pain many of us will carry into this season. The holidays can poke at our grief. Many will be missing loved ones lost to sickness and tragedy. The traumas of the pandemic will still be with us. Many will have lost homes - due to natural disasters, economic hardship, and unjust policies. Many do not feel safe in their own homes due to poor living conditions or harmful family dynamics. Many feel alone and isolated at home.

Churches are discerning transitions with their physical buildings; many of our spiritual homes are changing.

This Advent, may we be comforted by the One who dwells intimately with us. May we expand safety and sanctuary for everyone wandering far from home. May we come home - wherever home is found - to live fully with joy, hope, and courage.



Pastor's Pen



Since we have quite a few new members and regular visitors, I thought this would be a great time to reflect on what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. Our church is a member of a wider church movement called The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Some would say that is our denomination, but as I've shared many times, I think the Apostle Paul would be very upset with how we have taken Christianity and spit it up into dozens of "denominations." That is one of the best things I like about being affiliated with the Disciples of Christ, is our very identity statement asserts that we are a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. What follows is excerpts from our General Church website disciples.org

Disciples of Christ' Identity, Vision, Mission, and Confession

Our Identity

We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.

Our Vision

To be a faithful, growing church, that demonstrates true community, deep Christian spirituality and a passion for justice. – Micah 6:8

Our Mission

To be and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, witnessing, loving and serving from our doorsteps "to the ends of the earth." – Acts 1:8

Our Confession

As members of the Christian Church, We confess that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, and proclaim him Lord and Savior of the world.

In Christ's name and by his grace we accept our mission of witness and service to all people.

We rejoice in God, maker of heaven and earth, and in God's covenant of love which binds us to God and to one another.

Through baptism into Christ we enter into newness of life and are made one with the whole people of God.

In the communion of the Holy Spirit we are joined together in discipleship and in obedience to Christ.

At the Table of the Lord we celebrate with thanksgiving the saving acts and presence of Christ.

Within the universal church we receive the gift of ministry and the light of scripture.

In the bonds of Christian faith we yield ourselves to God that we may serve the One whose kingdom has no end.

Blessing, glory, and honor be to God forever. Amen.

Pastor's Pen... continued

We practice unity and inclusion at the Lord's Table

All are welcome to the Lord's Table for the sake of mission and for the sake of the world as the one family of God. Most congregations do this by celebrating communion every Sunday. That's why we use a chalice as our logo.

We practice believer baptism

A person makes the choice to follow God's call rather than the choice being made for them as an infant. Baptism is the basis of membership in the Church and also a mark that every person is called to serve God – the idea of the “priesthood of all believers.”

We study scripture for ourselves

We are called to study and read scripture for ourselves. Rather than having tests of faith and creedal statements, we critically and thoughtfully study scripture, taking into account the history and background – the context – in which it was written.

We are a movement for Christian Unity

We honor our heritage as a movement for Christian unity by cooperating and partnering with other faith communities to work for bringing about wholeness – healing and justice – in the world. This is what it means to be “ecumenical.” One example is our cooperative work with the United Church of Christ in Global Ministries for the past 25+ years and our full communion agreement with the United Church of Canada.

We also honor the heritage of Christian unity by staying together in covenant as a witness to the world that even when we disagree we can still make room, welcoming all to the table as Christ has welcomed us. Our spiritual ancestors were fond of saying, “unity, not uniformity.”

The Chalice



The chalice symbolizes the central place of communion in worship for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The X-shaped cross of the disciple Andrew is a reminder of the ministry of each person and the importance of evangelism.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Central Christian Community Services
In partnership with & Central Christian Church
A Ray of Hope Support Network

4308 32nd ST W
Bradenton, FL 34219
www.JoyfulFriends.org
www.cccBradenton.org
941-900-1010

Monthly Movie Night

This month 11/19:

November 19th
6:15 PM
+ It's FREE
Where EveryONE is Welcome

Joyful Friends Programs
For Our Joyful Friends and their families living with developmental, intellectual, physical, and/or behavioral challenges.

A safe place where you can be yourself – talking, walking around, making noise, etc. all are okay.

Thanksgiving Lunch

Sun | 11/21



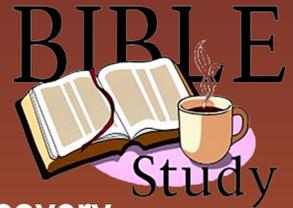
HANGING OF THE **G**REENS
NOV **27** - **2PM**



Weekly Ministries

Bible Study

- Mondays at 10 a.m.



Celebrate Recovery

- Mondays at 6:15 p.m.

NA Meeting

- Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.
- Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

Choir Rehearsal

- Wednesdays at 6 p.m.



Prayer Team

- Thursdays at 4 p.m.

Movie Night

3rd Friday of Each Month

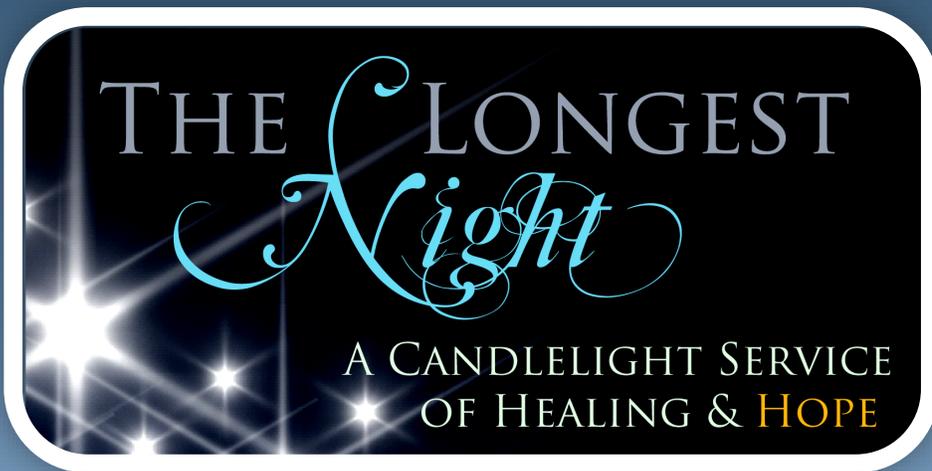


Deacon Training



Sun | NOV 7th
11:30

UPCOMING EVENTS:



Service on
Tuesday
December 21st
At 7 p.m.

For those who have experienced loss, the holidays can be a particularly painful time, stirring up grief in acute ways. As a result, churches around the world have adopted the practice of having a “Blue Christmas” or a “Longest Night” service during the Advent season. In the Northern hemisphere, this service is often observed on December 21st, the Winter Solstice, which is the longest night of the year. However, this service can be held at any time throughout the Advent or Christmas season.

The Longest Night service is designed to provide space for prayer, reflection, and remembrance amidst the holiday hustle and bustle. In this pandemic season of life, we imagine that grief and loss will be magnified and nearly universal, and a service like this may be needed now more than ever. Therefore, we hope that these words and this order of worship can be a gift to individuals and communities alike, providing a space of calm, quiet, and healing.



FRIDAY - DECEMBER 24TH - 7 P.M.

Central Christian Church | 4304 32nd St W, Bradenton, FL 34205 | Phone: 941-748-3130

NOV 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 DEACON TRAINING 11:30	8 NIKKE BARUS 	9	10	11 BOARD MEETING 6:30 P.M.	12	13
14	15 DAVID MILLER 	16 ERIC GARVIN 	17	18	19 MOVIE NIGHT 6:15 p.m.	20
21 THANKS- GIVING LUNCH 	22	23	24	25 	26 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	27 HANGING OF THE GREENS 2 P.M.
28	29	30				



Support DOWNTOWN Ministries for our 8th Annual Thanksgiving Community Outreach as we bless families in need again this year by providing a great family Thanksgiving Dinner!

**It is easy to bless a family this holiday -
Purchase these food items & put them in a grocery bag:**

Boxed Mashed Potatoes

Boxed Mac N Cheese

Stuffing

Gravy

2 Cans of Yams

2 Cans of Vegetables

Cranberry Sauce

Boxed Easy to Make Dessert

\$15 Grocery Gift Card – Publix/Walmart

(Our ministry has already purchased and will be adding two canned hams to each prepared bag.)

Turn in your dinner bag by Wednesday November 17th by bringing it to any DOWNTOWN Outreach, our Warehouse on Tuesday evenings, or making arrangements for drop off.

Don't want to shop?

You can still help by donating \$25 to our ministry and we will help a family and fill a Thanksgiving Bag for you!

www.downtown-ministries.com



**Bring your dinner bag
to church on
Sunday, Nov. 14th.**



DEC 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	<p>4 CHURCH CHRISTMAS PARTY 4-7 PM PASTOR KEN'S HOUSE</p>
5	6	7	8	9 TRACI DYR 	10	11
12 CONGREGATION MEETING 11:30 SHANNON MCDONOUGH BIRTHDAY	13	14	15	16	17 MOVIE NIGHT 6:15 p.m.	18
19	20	21 LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE 7 P.M.	22	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 7 PM NINA LEWIS BIRTHDAY	25 CHRISTMAS
26	27 RANDY ATTEBURY CHERYL GREGSON	28	29 REBA FOREBECK 	30	31 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Join **DOWNTOWN Ministries** for our
8th Annual Christmas Outreaches!

**As We Bring Christmas and the Message of Jesus
To the Homeless and Those in Need in our Community!**

**We will be putting together 450 Christmas Gift Bags for men,
women, and children! We are asking for new stocking stuffer items
for these gift bags.**

Some Stocking Stuffer Suggestions -

Socks - Men, Women, Children

Special Christmas Candy

Small Miniature Candy and Chocolate

Small Toys for Boys and Girls

Matchbox Cars/Small Legos

Beanie Babies/Small Stuffed Animals

Small Puzzles/Books

Jump Ropes/Tiny Balls

New Makeup/Perfumes/Cologne

Washcloths/Hygiene Items

Decks of Cards/Tiny Games/Chess/Checkers

Combs and Brushes

Individually Wrapped Snacks/Cookies/Chips

**We are also collecting new unwrapped toys for our
DOWNTOWN Kids All Ages Newborn - 18 years.**

**Please don't forget our older kids and teens, we know that
they can be hard to shop for, but the need is huge!**

A suggested price for a toy would be \$25.

Please Turn in Donations by *Sunday, December 12th.*



Nov Servant's Schedule

SUNDAY - 11/7

1st Scripture: Tammy Jacobs

2nd Scripture: Terrie Zieber

Elder: Rick Session

Deacons: Billie Laird & Jaime Spencer

Greeter: Tom Ervin

SUNDAY - 11/14

1st Scripture: Dawn Lee

2nd Scripture: Anita Haisch

Elder: Barb Abbring

Deacon: Lesa Canterbury & Sherri Lee

Greeter: Tracie Dyr

SUNDAY - 11/21

1st Scripture: AJ Stevens

2nd Scripture: Bernadette Gregson

Elder: Anita Haisch

Deacon: Billie Laird & Terrie Frazier

Greeter: Tom Ervin

SUNDAY - 11/28

1st Scripture: Dale Neas

2nd Scripture: Billie Laird

Elder: Sue Fitzgerald

Deacon: Lesa Canterbury & Jaime Spencer

Greeter: Tracie Dyr



Dec Servant's Schedule

SUNDAY - 12/5

1st Scripture: Barry Allender

2nd Scripture: Brittany Swink

Elder: Rick Session

Deacon: Billie Laird & Sherri Lee

Greeter: Tom Ervin

SUNDAY - 12/12

1st Scripture: Sherri Lee

2nd Scripture: Sue Fitzgerald

Elder: Barb Abbring

Deacon: Lesa Canterbury & Terrie Frazier

Greeter: Tracie Dyr

SUNDAY - 12/19

1st Scripture: Lynn Wolske

2nd Scripture: Rick Session

Elder: Sue Fitzgerald

Deacon: Billie Laird & Jaime Spence

Greeter: Tom Ervin

SUNDAY - 12/26

1st Scripture: Doug Stevens

2nd Scripture: Micki Baker

Elder: Anita Haisch

Deacon: Lesa Canterbury & Sherri Lee

Greeter: Tracie Dyr

